

Asia, that is not only in our national interest, it is the right thing to do. Fortunately, there are measures we can take to help bring freedom, peace, and stability to that dangerous region. The time has come to stop providing American aid to India—remember, this is public money—until India begins to treat all its people fairly and ends the repression against the minorities. The other thing that we can do is strongly urge India to hold a plebiscite, not just in Kashmir as it promised in 1948, but in Khalistan, Nagalim, and everywhere else that people seek their freedom. This will help to defuse the tense situation in South Asia and enhance America's national security by bringing us new allies in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's letter to President Musharraf into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,  
GURU GOBIND SINGH JI, TENTH MASTER,  
Washington, DC June 27, 2001.

Hon. GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF,  
President of Pakistan,  
Islamabad, Pakistan.

DEAR PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF, On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I congratulate you on becoming President of Pakistan. We hope and pray that this step will be useful for the people of Pakistan, the Sikhs, and the people of South Asia.

Soon you will be visiting India. We sincerely hope that your visit will go well and will be productive to the cause of peace and freedom in South Asia.

While you are in India, I urge you to visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The Sikhs who visited Nankana Sahib last fall were so well treated that we know you are a friend of the Sikh Nation. Your visit to the Golden Temple will enhance your friendship with the Sikh nation.

You are aware that India divided Pakistan through a war and created the nation of Bangladesh. You are also aware that India promised in 1948 to hold a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir. Fifty-three years later, that plebiscite has still not been held. The people of Punjab, Khalistan also seek their freedom, and General Javed Nasir has endorsed the achievement of Khalistan by peaceful means. In addition, there are freedom movements in Nagalim, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Manipur, and other nations under Indian occupation. Self-determination is the birthright of all peoples and nations. Support for the freedom movements within India's borders would also be in Pakistan's interest, as well as the interest of peace, freedom, and stability in South Asia. In addition, it would help to prevent another war between India and Pakistan.

India has murdered over 250,000 Sikh since 1984, more than 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Manipuris, Assamese, and others. It has admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners without charge or trial. Recently in Kashmir, Muslim and Sikh villagers caught a group of Indian soldiers trying to burn down a Gudwara and overpowered them. Is this the way of "the world's largest democracy"? Add to this the fact that India started the nuclear arms race in South Asia with their nuclear tests. India is a destabilizing and repressive country seeking hegemony in the subcontinent.

President Musharraf, I urge you to support the freedom movements in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India. I

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

urge you to press the Indian government on this issue and urge them to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence, monitored by the international community. This would go a long way towards establishing stability, peace, and freedom in South Asia.

Sincerely

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President,

Council of Khalistan.

## MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE VILLAGE OF VANDERBILT, MICHIGAN

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, certainly one of the milestone events in the history of our nation was the adoption of the Constitution by a convention of the states in 1787. But another significant event in our history took place that year. Congress, operating under the governing document known as the Articles of Confederation, approved a plan for the growth of the United States known as the Northwest Ordinance.

I call these facts to mind, Mr. Speaker, because the Northwest Ordinance spelled out to the world that the United States planned to settle the areas that would eventually become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and my own state of Michigan.

Despite this early commitment by the young nation to expand, settlement came late to many of these areas. In my congressional district the Village of Vanderbilt is celebrating its centennial, making it a young community even by the standards of this young nation. The community plans to mark its celebration with three days of festivities at the end of July.

Communities like Vanderbilt sprang into being when railroads pushed north into the vast timberlands of the upper Midwest. Vanderbilt itself is named for Cornelius Vanderbilt—famously known as Commodore Vanderbilt—who in 1866 took over the railroad that runs through this small village, located near the northern end of Lower Michigan.

The efforts of Commodore Vanderbilt to build for himself a sprawling rail empire are the stuff of American legend, the legendary tycoon did not visit all his holdings. As Vanderbilt local historian Bonnie Karslake has written, "None of the Vanderbilts ever lived in northern Michigan, even though the town as named for them."

Bonnie Karslake's history details the arrival of the first permanent settlers and the development of the first local businesses around 1880. Such business activity, like the Vanderbilt Bowl Factory under the proprietorship of G.G. Williams, were based on forest products. As Bonnie's history makes clear, however, a village truly becomes a community when other businesses and services arrive, such as the Vanderbilt Gazette in 1883 and the Corwith Township Library in 1884.

Within a decade of 1879 the community acquired three hotels, a two-story school, three sawmills, a planing and shingle mill, a stove

mill, and a store and post office. Among other professionals and tradesmen, it had a taxidermist, a shoemaker, a constable, a milliner, a barber, a liquor dealer, a druggist, blacksmiths, wagon makers and two justices of the peace. Though not yet incorporated as the Village of Vanderbilt, by 1887 a community had sprung to life in the North Woods, much as the writers of the Northwest Ordinance had envisioned 100 years before.

Elizabeth Haus, village president, has said that residents have planned "an old-time celebration" to mark the milestone 100 years. In addition to celebrating the centennial of Vanderbilt's incorporation, the community will also mark the 100th birthday of the Vanderbilt Community Church building, one of the centers of community life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my House colleagues join me in wishing the people of Vanderbilt a joyous centennial celebration and in praying the community can thrive and continue to be a great place to live, work and raise families.

## TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND SALLIE MCCLAIN

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward and Sallie McClain of Charleston, South Carolina, who have been chosen as the South Carolina Parents of the Year for 2001. Reverend and Mrs. McClain will be honored on July 25, 2001 with this prestigious award at the seventh annual Congressional Parents' Day Celebration cosponsored by The American Family Coalition and The Washington Times Foundation.

Reverend and Mrs. McClain have been married for 42 years. They have nine children, twenty grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. All of their children lead successful lives, ranging from personnel directors and electrical engineers to Olympian basketball players and college students. I have no doubt their success is due in strong part to the selfless and unconditional love bestowed upon them by their parents and passed on to their children.

In addition to this complete and absolute devotion to their family, Reverend and Mrs. McClain continually extend their hearts to the Charleston community. Reverend McClain, a former educator and minister of Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church, serves on the local school board. Reverend McClain is also one of the founders of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, in which Mrs. McClain plays an integral role as well. Reverend and Mrs. McClain began a soup kitchen that has operated for 17 years. They hold special church services every year to honor the young people in their church who have achieved academic excellence, and have been leaders in a highly effective program against drug dealing in their neighborhood. These examples are only a fraction of the contributions Reverend and Mrs. McClain have made to the Charleston community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward and Sallie McClain. The distinguished couple has continually put their children, their church, and their community before their own needs. Reverend and Mrs. McClain are examples of passionate parental role models in an age when such models are becoming both more rare and more crucial.

# COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN R. THUNE**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this last April to travel around my home state of South Dakota and visit just a few of the hard-working local charities that would benefit from the Community Solutions Act, H.R. 7. I am continually amazed by the kind hearts of the neighborhood saints who work and volunteer at these organizations. Day in and day out these folks serve the poor, the weak, and the victimized.

I have also been witness to the bureaucratic processes of the welfare state. The question that seems to always work its way into my head is, "why is there such a visible difference between our government services and local organizations?"

First of all, local charities and organizations are efficient. Money is almost always scarce in this line of work, so they must learn to stretch every penny they receive.

Secondly, local charities and organizations are exactly that . . . local. Folks here in Washington can devise a system to deal with the National Substance Abuse Problem, but what works in Canton, South Dakota? I have a feeling those who have lived there know the unique local factors that contribute to substance abuse and can make a difference in people's lives.

Thirdly, local charities and organizations are compassionate. A deep sense of calling can be the only reason why the armies of compassion continue to serve. Their calling shows itself in the care that is shown.

Because of what I have seen and heard from those who work and volunteer at these local organizations, I am convinced that we must take every opportunity we can to support them. And by passing H.R. 7 today, we'll be one step closer to achieving that goal. Through the expanded tax deductions, incentive would be put in place for individuals to give to the charitable groups they deem worthy of their hard-earned income. Any increase in charitable donations is well worth the decrease in taxes the government would receive. Why? Because these groups are performing many of the same duties our government would have to otherwise provide. Let's foster the charitable spirit alive in our constituents and allow all of our civil society the opportunity to serve.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO THE IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 25 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of a proud organization. On Saturday, July 21, 2001, the loyal and hard working members, contractors, dignitaries and their families of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 joined together in celebration of the largest iron workers' local in the country, a dedicated group of over 4,500 members.

Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 has been a charter member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers since July 18, 1901. They are a local union for bridge, structural, ornamental, reinforcing, rigging, pre-engineered, pre-cast, glazing, fence, siding and decking, conveyor and canopy construction workers. Jurisdiction stretches from the State of Michigan to parts of Canada, however most of the Union's early work displays itself in the city of Detroit. Buildings such as the American Car & Foundry plants, Dime Savings Bank, Broadway Theater, Cobo Hall, City County Building, and the Renaissance Center give testament to their dedication and tireless efforts. They pride themselves in saying "We Built Detroit." I most sincerely agree.

The organization has been a trailblazer for fair wages, benefits, shorter workdays and safety for the trades. Ensuring strength and solidarity in thirty-four counties including both Macomb and St. Clair, Local Union No. 25 is certainly worthy of applause and recognition.

Today, the organization has a membership of approximately 4,500. After 100 years of honorable service, Local Union No. 25 celebrates this remarkable milestone with a grand celebration that I was honored to attend.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 we celebrate the people who have made this organization remarkably successful. I applaud Local 25 for their outstanding dedication, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY invited me to participate in an event in Kansas City, Missouri, that took note of the impending mailing of tax rebate checks to millions of Americans, including 877,000 Kansans, as the result of the enactment of H.R. 1836, which I supported.

For this reason, I was absent during the consideration of H.R. 2216, which made supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present for rollcall 256, which was final passage of this conference report, I would have voted "yes".

*July 24, 2001*

### BREAKDOWN OF INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS SHOWS INDIA'S CONTEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY, PEACE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I think we were all distressed by the breakdown of the talks between India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in South Asia, one of the most troubled areas in the world. The fact that the talks broke down increases the danger and the instability in that region.

It looks as if much of the blame for the breakdown goes squarely to the Indian government. As Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, put it, "It is very clear that India does not want a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue." India's Defense Ministry spokeswoman did not even mention Kashmir among the topics under discussion. Three drafts of a joint statement were vetoed by the Indian cabinet. As you know, the Indian government is run by the militant, Hindu nationalist BJP, a branch of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which has said that everyone in India must be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. The RSS published a booklet last year showing how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in false criminal cases.

India's human-rights violations have been well documented. It has killed over tens of thousands of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and other minorities. It has burned churches, prayer halls, and Christian schools, destroyed the most revered Muslim mosque in India, and attacked the seat of Sikhism, the Golden Temple. It has killed priests and raped nuns. Indian troops were recently caught in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes. This atrocity was prevented by the joint action of Sikh and Muslim villagers. The Indian government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura in March 2000. In 1997, Indian troops broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikhs in illegal detention without charge or trial under the repressive TADA law, which expired in 1995, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. It was routine to rearrest people released under TADA and to file charges in more than one state simultaneously to deter prisoners from contesting the charges. Amnesty International notes that there are tens of thousands of Sikhs and others being held as political prisoners. Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also held as political prisoners in large numbers. A few months ago, the Council of Khalistan called on the political prisoners to run for office from their jail cells. This might be the most effective action that the political prisoners and minority political leaders can take. I call upon President Bush to press India for the release of all political prisoners. Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?

India has murdered Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and other minorities by the tens of thousands. Should the United States be supporting such a country, especially when it tries